

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2606

AN ACT

To reauthorize the United States Fire Administration, and
for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This subtitle may be cited as the “United States Fire
3 Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) The number of lives lost each year because
7 of fire has dropped significantly over the last 25
8 years in the United States. However, the United
9 States still has one of the highest fire death rates
10 in the industrialized world. In 2006, the National
11 Fire Protection Association reported 3,245 civilian
12 fire deaths, 16,400 civilian fire injuries, and
13 \$11,307,000,000 in direct losses due to fire.

14 (2) Every year, more than 100 firefighters die
15 in the line of duty. The United States Fire Adminis-
16 tration should continue its leadership to help local
17 fire agencies dramatically reduce these fatalities.

18 (3) The Federal Government should continue to
19 work with State and local governments and the fire
20 service community to further the promotion of na-
21 tional voluntary consensus standards that increase
22 firefighter safety.

23 (4) The United States Fire Administration pro-
24 vides crucial support to the 30,300 fire departments
25 of the United States through training, emergency in-
26 cident data collection, fire awareness and education,

1 and support of research and development activities
2 for fire prevention, control, and suppression tech-
3 nologies.

4 (5) The collection of data on fire and other
5 emergency incidents is a vital tool both for policy
6 makers and emergency responders to identify and
7 develop responses to emerging hazards. Improving
8 the data collection capabilities of the United States
9 Fire Administration is essential for accurately track-
10 ing and responding to the magnitude and nature of
11 the fire problems of the United States.

12 (6) The research and development performed by
13 the National Institute of Standards and Technology,
14 the United States Fire Administration, other govern-
15 ment agencies, and nongovernmental organizations
16 on fire technologies, techniques, and tools advance
17 the capabilities of the fire service of the United
18 States to suppress and prevent fires.

19 (7) Because of the essential role of the United
20 States Fire Administration and the fire service com-
21 munity in preparing for and responding to national
22 and man-made disasters, the United States Fire Ad-
23 ministration should have a prominent place within
24 the Federal Emergency Management Agency and
25 the Department of Homeland Security.

1 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR UNITED**
2 **STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION.**

3 Section 17(g)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and
4 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216(g)(1)) is amended—

5 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and”
6 after the semicolon;

7 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period
8 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

9 (3) by adding after subparagraph (D) the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(E) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, of
12 which \$2,520,000 shall be used to carry out
13 section 8(f);

14 “(F) \$72,100,000 for fiscal year 2010, of
15 which \$2,595,600 shall be used to carry out
16 section 8(f);

17 “(G) \$74,263,000 for fiscal year 2011, of
18 which \$2,673,468 shall be used to carry out
19 section 8(f); and

20 “(H) \$76,490,890 for fiscal year 2012, of
21 which \$2,753,672 shall be used to carry out
22 section 8(f).”.

1 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING PROGRAM**
2 **MODIFICATIONS AND REPORTS.**

3 (a) AMENDMENTS TO FIRE ACADEMY TRAINING.—
4 Section 7(d)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Con-
5 trol Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1)) is amended—

6 (1) by amending subparagraph (H) to read as
7 follows:

8 “(H) tactics and strategies for dealing with
9 natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other
10 man-made disasters;”;

11 (2) in subparagraph (K), by striking “forest”
12 and inserting “wildland”;

13 (3) in subparagraph (M), by striking “re-
14 sponse”;

15 (4) by redesignating subparagraphs (I) through
16 (N) as subparagraphs (M) through (R), respectively;
17 and

18 (5) by inserting after subparagraph (H) the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(I) tactics and strategies for fighting
21 large-scale fires or multiple fires in a general
22 area that cross jurisdictional boundaries;

23 “(J) tactics and strategies for fighting
24 fires occurring at the wildland-urban interface;

25 “(K) tactics and strategies for fighting
26 fires involving hazardous materials;

1 “(L) advanced emergency medical services
2 training;”.

3 (b) ON-SITE TRAINING.—Section 7 of such Act (15
4 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (c)(6), by inserting “, includ-
6 ing on-site training” after “United States”;

7 (2) in subsection (f), by striking “4 percent”
8 and inserting “7.5 percent”; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(m) ON-SITE TRAINING.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
12 graph (2), the Administrator may enter into a con-
13 tract with nationally recognized organizations that
14 have established on-site training programs that com-
15 ply with national voluntary consensus standards for
16 fire service personnel to facilitate the delivery of the
17 education and training programs outlined in sub-
18 section (d)(1) directly to fire service personnel.

19 “(2) LIMITATION.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
21 may not enter into a contract with an organiza-
22 tion described in paragraph (1) unless such or-
23 ganization provides training that—

1 “(i) leads to certification by a pro-
2 gram that is accredited by a nationally rec-
3 ognized accreditation organization; or

4 “(ii) the Administrator determines is
5 of equivalent quality to a fire service train-
6 ing program described by clause (i).

7 “(B) APPROVAL OF UNACCREDITED FIRE
8 SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMS.—The Adminis-
9 trator may consider the fact that an organiza-
10 tion has provided a satisfactory fire service
11 training program pursuant to a cooperative
12 agreement with a Federal agency as evidence
13 that such program is of equivalent quality to a
14 fire service training program described by sub-
15 paragraph (A)(i).

16 “(3) RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS.—The
17 amounts expended by the Administrator to carry out
18 this subsection in any fiscal year shall not exceed 7.5
19 per centum of the amount authorized to be appro-
20 priated in such fiscal year pursuant to section 17.”.

21 (c) TRIENNIAL REPORTS.—Such section 7 (15
22 U.S.C. 2206) is further amended by adding at the end
23 the following:

24 “(n) TRIENNIAL REPORT.—In the first annual report
25 filed pursuant to section 16 for which the deadline for fil-

1 ing is after the expiration of the 18-month period that be-
2 gins on the date of the enactment of the United States
3 Fire Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008, and in
4 every third annual report thereafter, the Administrator
5 shall include information about changes made to the Na-
6 tional Fire Academy curriculum, including—

7 “(1) the basis for such changes, including a re-
8 view of the incorporation of lessons learned by emer-
9 gency response personnel after significant emergency
10 events and emergency preparedness exercises per-
11 formed under the National Exercise Program; and
12 “(2) the desired training outcome of all such
13 changes.”.

14 (d) REPORT ON FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING INCI-
15 DENT COMMAND TRAINING FOR FIRES AT PORTS AND IN
16 MARINE ENVIRONMENTS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Adminis-
19 trator of the United States Fire Administration shall
20 submit to Congress a report on the feasibility of pro-
21 viding training in incident command for appropriate
22 fire service personnel for fires at United States ports
23 and in marine environments, including fires on the
24 water and aboard vessels.

1 (2) CONTENTS.—The report required by para-
2 graph (1) shall include the following:

3 (A) A description of the necessary cur-
4 riculum for training described in paragraph (1).

5 (B) A description of existing training pro-
6 grams related to incident command in port and
7 maritime environments, including by other Fed-
8 eral agencies, and the feasibility and estimated
9 cost of making such training available to appro-
10 priate fire service personnel.

11 (C) An assessment of the feasibility and
12 advisability of the United States Fire Adminis-
13 tration developing such a training course in in-
14 cident command for appropriate fire service
15 personnel for fires at United States ports and
16 in marine environments, including fires on the
17 water and aboard vessels.

18 (D) A description of the delivery options
19 for such a course and the estimated cost to the
20 United States Fire Administration for devel-
21 oping such a course and providing such training
22 for appropriate fire service personnel.

1 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM UP-**
2 **GRADES.**

3 (a) INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM DATABASE.—Sec-
4 tion 9 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of
5 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2208) is amended by adding at the end
6 the following:

7 “(d) NATIONAL FIRE INCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM
8 UPDATE.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall
10 update the National Fire Incident Reporting System
11 to ensure that the information in the system is avail-
12 able, and can be updated, through the Internet and
13 in real time.

14 “(2) LIMITATION.—Of the amounts made avail-
15 able pursuant to subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G) of
16 section 17(g)(1), the Administrator shall use not
17 more than an aggregate amount of \$5,000,000 dur-
18 ing the 3-year period consisting of fiscal years 2009,
19 2010, and 2011 to carry out the activities required
20 by paragraph (1).”.

21 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 9(b)(2) of
22 such Act (15 U.S.C. 2208(b)(2)) is amended by striking
23 “assist State,” and inserting “assist Federal, State,”.

1 **SEC. 6. FIRE TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE AND RESEARCH**
2 **DISSEMINATION.**

3 (a) ASSISTANCE TO FIRE SERVICES FOR FIRE PRE-
4 VENTION AND CONTROL IN WILDLAND-URBAN INTER-
5 FACE.—Section 8(d) of the Federal Fire Prevention and
6 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2207(d)) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 “(d) RURAL AND WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE AS-
9 SISTANCE.—The Administrator may, in coordination with
10 the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior,
11 and the Wildland Fire Leadership Council, assist the fire
12 services of the United States, directly or through con-
13 tracts, grants, or other forms of assistance, in sponsoring
14 and encouraging research into approaches, techniques,
15 systems, equipment, and land-use policies to improve fire
16 prevention and control in—

17 “(1) the rural and remote areas of the United
18 States; and

19 “(2) the wildland-urban interface.”.

20 (b) TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH DISSEMINATION.—Sec-
21 tion 8 of such Act (15 U.S.C. 2207) is amended by adding
22 at the end the following:

23 “(h) PUBLICATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For each fire-related re-
25 search program funded by the Administration, the
26 Administrator shall make available to the public on

1 the Internet website of the Administration the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(A) A description of such research pro-
4 gram, including the scope, methodology, and
5 goals thereof.

6 “(B) Information that identifies the indi-
7 viduals or institutions conducting the research
8 program.

9 “(C) The amount of funding provided by
10 the Administration for such program.

11 “(D) The results or findings of the re-
12 search program.

13 “(2) DEADLINES.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
15 subparagraph (B), the information required by
16 paragraph (1) shall be published with respect to
17 a research program as follows:

18 “(i) The information described in sub-
19 paragraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph
20 (1) with respect to such research program
21 shall be made available under paragraph
22 (1) not later than 30 days after the Ad-
23 ministrator has awarded the funding for
24 such research program.

1 “(ii) The information described in
2 subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1) with
3 respect to a research program shall be
4 made available under paragraph (1) not
5 later than 60 days after the date such re-
6 search program has been completed.

7 “(B) EXCEPTION.—No information shall
8 be required to be published under this sub-
9 section before the date that is 1 year after the
10 date of the enactment of the United States Fire
11 Administration Reauthorization Act of 2008.”.

12 **SEC. 7. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR**
13 **FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.**

14 The Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
15 (15 U.S.C. 2201 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
16 the following:

17 **“SEC. 37. ENCOURAGING ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR**
18 **FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY.**

19 “The Administrator shall promote adoption by fire
20 services of national voluntary consensus standards for fire-
21 fighter health and safety, including such standards for
22 firefighter operations, training, staffing, and fitness, by—

23 “(1) educating fire services about such stand-
24 ards;

1 “(2) encouraging the adoption at all levels of
2 government of such standards; and

3 “(3) making recommendations on other ways in
4 which the Federal Government can promote the
5 adoption of such standards by fire services.”.

6 **SEC. 8. STATE AND LOCAL FIRE SERVICE REPRESENTA-**
7 **TION AT NATIONAL OPERATIONS CENTER.**

8 Section 515 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
9 (6 U.S.C. 321d) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 “(c) STATE AND LOCAL FIRE SERVICE REPRESENTA-

12 TION.—

13 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION.—The Sec-

14 retary shall, in consultation with the Administrator

15 of the United States Fire Administration, establish

16 a fire service position at the National Operations

17 Center established under subsection (b) to ensure

18 the effective sharing of information between the

19 Federal Government and State and local fire serv-

20 ices.

21 “(2) DESIGNATION OF POSITION.—The Sec-

22 retary shall designate, on a rotating basis, a State

23 or local fire service official for the position described

24 in paragraph (1).

1 “(3) MANAGEMENT.—The Secretary shall man-
2 age the position established pursuant to paragraph
3 (1) in accordance with such rules, regulations, and
4 practices as govern other similar rotating positions
5 at the National Operations Center.”.

6 **SEC. 9. COORDINATION REGARDING FIRE PREVENTION**
7 **AND CONTROL AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL**
8 **SERVICES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 21(e) of the Federal Fire
10 Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2218(e))
11 is amended to read as follows:

12 “(e) COORDINATION.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent practicable,
14 the Administrator shall use existing programs, data,
15 information, and facilities already available in other
16 Federal Government departments and agencies and,
17 where appropriate, existing research organizations,
18 centers, and universities.

19 “(2) COORDINATION OF FIRE PREVENTION AND
20 CONTROL PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall pro-
21 vide liaison at an appropriate organizational level to
22 assure coordination of the activities of the Adminis-
23 trator with Federal, State, and local government
24 agencies and departments and nongovernmental or-

1 ganizations concerned with any matter related to
2 programs of fire prevention and control.

3 “(3) COORDINATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL
4 SERVICES PROGRAMS.—The Administrator shall pro-
5 vide liaison at an appropriate organizational level to
6 assure coordination of the activities of the Adminis-
7 trator related to emergency medical services pro-
8 vided by fire service-based systems with Federal,
9 State, and local government agencies and depart-
10 ments and nongovernmental organizations so con-
11 cerned, as well as those entities concerned with
12 emergency medical services generally.”.

13 (b) FIRE SERVICE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL
14 SERVICES BEST PRACTICES.—Section 8(c) of such Act
15 (15 U.S.C. 2207(c)) is amended—

16 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through
17 (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and
18 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
19 lowing new paragraph:

20 “(2) The Administrator is authorized to conduct, di-
21 rectly or through contracts or grants, studies of the oper-
22 ations and management aspects of fire service-based emer-
23 gency medical services and coordination between emer-
24 gency medical services and fire services. Such studies may
25 include the optimum protocols for on-scene care, the allo-

1 cation of resources, and the training requirements for fire
2 service-based emergency medical services.”.

3 **SEC. 10. AMENDMENTS TO DEFINITIONS.**

4 Section 4 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control
5 Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2203) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “Administra-
7 tion” and inserting “Administration, within the Fed-
8 eral Emergency Management Agency”;

9 (2) in paragraph (7), by striking the “and”
10 after the semicolon;

11 (3) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at
12 the end and inserting “; and”; and

13 (4) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(9) ‘wildland-urban interface’ has the meaning
15 given such term in section 101 of the Healthy For-
16 ests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).”.

17 **SEC. 11. SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF FIRE SPRIN-**
18 **KLERS.**

19 Congress supports the recommendations of the
20 United States Fire Administration regarding the adoption
21 of fire sprinklers in commercial buildings and educational

- 1 programs to raise awareness of the important of installing
- 2 fire sprinklers in residential buildings.

Passed the Senate September 18 (legislative day,
September 17), 2008.

Attest:

Secretary.

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